

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Contract for a Pilot Project for Probation Supervision Services with Professional Probation Services, Inc., for the period 1/1-9/30/2011 in Sumter County utilizing current county staff and saving up to \$79,700 in FY 2011 General Fund.

REQUESTED ACTION: **Staff Recommends Approval.**

☐ Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** 12/14/10
☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting

CONTRACT: ☐ N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: 1/1/11 Termination Date: 9/30/11
Managing Division / Dept: Community Services/Misdemeanor Probation

BUDGET IMPACT: Revenue up to \$143,222 with GF saving up to \$79,700 in FY 11
☐ Annual **FUNDING SOURCE:** Professional Probation Services, Inc.
☐ Capital **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** _____
☐ N/A

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

Sumter County has a long history of providing quality misdemeanor probation services to residents so ordered by the Courts. Currently, the BOCC's Misdemeanor Probation Department is part of the Community Services Division and is staffed with a coordinator, two officers, and two staff assistants. The reporting and recordkeeping is managed without the benefit of a fully-integrated management information system. The FY11 budget for the Department is \$271,421 with revenues through probationer fee collection of approximately \$90,000. The offset of fees reduces the General Fund commitment to \$181,421 or 67% of the total budget.

Hernando County has used private contractors for a number of years with the last 5 years managed by Professional Probation Services, Inc. (PPSI). PPSI was founded in 1992 to supervise and track offenders. PPSI actively supervises more than 50,000 offenders in six states, has more than 40 locations, has operated in FL since 2005, and offers an array of private sentencing alternatives. PPSI became a part of Universal Health, Services, Inc., a Fortune 500 corporation, in 1997.

PPSI held an open house on 10/25/10, which the Community Services Director attended. She met the PPSI staff, a County Judge, Court staff, a member of the Public Defender's Office, and reviewed the propriety management information software used by PPSI. The consensus of opinion of those interviewed regarding the services provided by PPSI in Hernando was extremely positive. As a result, a meeting was set for 11/4/10 with PPSI to further explore the privatization potential for Sumter County (see attached email of 12/2/10, "Timeline of Discussions with Professional Probation Services). A 9-month pilot project was proposed by PPSI, which will allow for the County to implement PPSI service strategies and to use its computerized Offender Tracking System while maintaining current county staff and saving money. If approved, the pilot project will be monitored by the Community Services Director. A recommendation for the full privatization of misdemeanor probation services at no cost to the County in FY12 will be determined during the term of the pilot project.

During the proposed pilot project, PPSI will collect client fees. As such, the expected \$67,500 in fee collection during the period 1-9/11 will offset the \$143,222 in salaries, FICA, and workers compensation paid by PPSI. As a result, the County should net approximately \$79,700 savings this FY.

It is recommended by staff for the PPSI pilot project to be approved for implementation in the Misdemeanor Probation Department of the Community Services Division.
